

THE NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

MARYVILLE, Mo.

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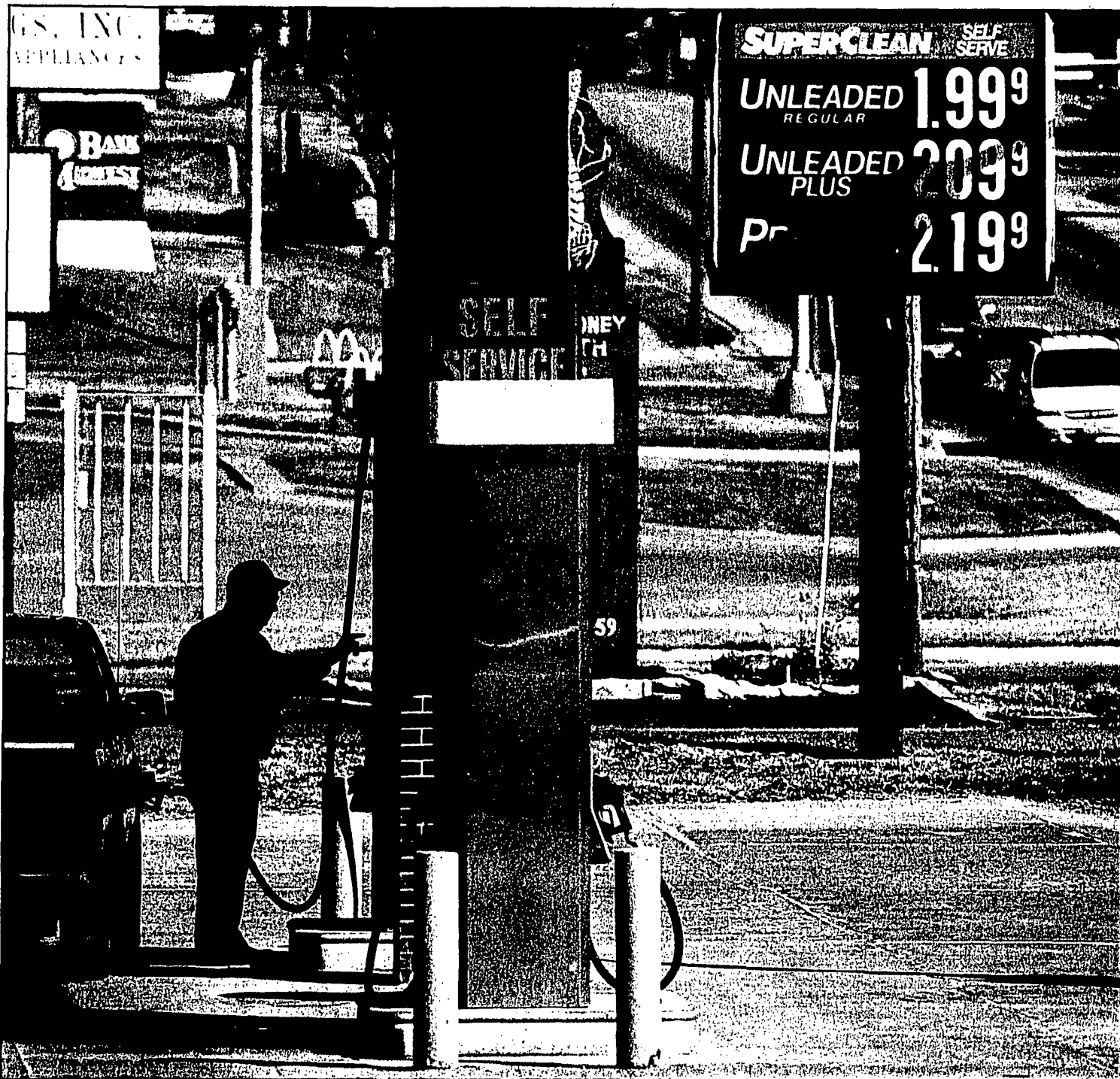
Prices on the rise again

Drivers experience pressure at the pumps; local prices inch closer to two-dollar amount

DOMINICK HADLEY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Every morning at 7:50, Sharon Reynolds finishes her usual daily routine. Reynolds, a Northwest senior, hops into her 2003 Chrysler Concorde for a 26-mile commute from Bedford, Iowa, to Maryville to attend classes. After her classes end, she hops back into her car to face the same 26-mile journey back to Bedford. This tedious routine, coupled with household utility payments, places a serious strain on her pocketbook—causing her to spend more than \$160 per month. "I just have to cut back on whatever I can where to compensate for (gas expenditures)," Reynolds said. "It makes it harder to pay your regular utility bills, house payments and everything else because you're trying to make the ends meet everywhere you can." However, Reynolds is not alone in her struggles. She is one of millions of consumers suffering from rising prices in the nation's oil and gasoline market. Retail prices rose to \$2 per gallon nationwide, and are expected to increase by 25 cents in the coming months, according to U.S. Energy Department officials. Locally, the average stands at \$1.99—compared to \$2.02 in St. Joseph and \$2.05 in Kansas City. The recent spike corresponds with significant crude oil market fluctuations. Crude oil prices rose to \$55 a barrel this week, up 45 percent from last year's average. And, industry officials like AAA Publications Vice President Michael Right expect the prices to increase throughout the year. According to Right, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries overwhelmingly dominates the crude oil market and therefore can set prices at reasonably high rates.

please see "PRICES" 5A



Keith Phillips fills the tank of his Nissan truck at Main Street's Phillips 66 Wednesday morning. Increased gas prices set record highs in Missouri this week, surpassing the previous high of \$1.98 per gallon. Prices are expected to climb throughout the next several months.

PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Students lobby for funding in Jefferson City

Northwest students speak to legislators; receive answers to pressing University issues

BY ASHLEY BALLY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Students traveled to Jefferson City Tuesday to address legislators regarding higher education, as part of Northwest's Legislative Reception Day. The trip presented students an opportunity to witness firsthand the operations of functioning government and discuss issues that affect their everyday lives. Arriving at 9:30 a.m., the students participated in a morning session to prepare before speaking with the legislators. The students spoke on a number of topics stemming from higher education. After being sorted into smaller groups the students then traveled around the building to talk to different legislators. According to University Relations Legislative Assistant Wendy Shoemyer, it was difficult to catch some of the 200 legislators because they were in session all day. Nisha Bharti, freshman, spoke with Representative Todd Smith about the merger drop that would have made Northwest a part of the UM system. "Smith was glad that we aren't merging because he thought we would lose our identity," Bharti said. "We are already a good school and don't need the merger, so he's glad that it didn't pass." The legislators asked questions about Northwest and listened to what the students had to say. "When we met with the representatives we introduced ourselves and asked what they would like to know about Northwest," Bharti said. "They asked us our opinions about the merger plans and the American Dream Grant."

please see "LOBBY" 5A

Mary Linn presents



PHOTO BY ADAM WATSON/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

National-known stand-up comedian Adam Ferrara performed Wednesday night at Northwest's Performing Arts Center. He addressed issues from growing up in an Italian family to Pope John Paul II still alive.

Former Northwest coach pleads guilty

BY COLE YOUNG
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

A former Northwest track and field coach was found guilty of embezzlement in U.S. District Court Tuesday. Ronnie G. DeShon, 50, pled guilty to embezzling \$844,477 dollars from the Pattonsburg School District. Under federal law he could face up to 10 years in prison without parole, and possibly \$250,000 in fines plus restitution. DeShon, who served as the district's superintendent until October, held the leadership position at the school since July 1, 2000. While a coach at Northwest, DeShon was named the MIAA Cross Country Coach of the Year in both 1995 and 1996. He resigned in 1997, after four seasons at Northwest. U.S. District Attorney Todd Graves prosecuted the case and said it was sad how the school district was left. "This is public money that should have been spent on teachers and textbooks," Graves said. "but instead went into his own pocket. DeShon wasn't just stealing from some government program; he was stealing from the children in his schools and the taxpayers of the community." Pattonsburg, a school district with only 222 students, was left in shambles following DeShon's departure. According to Graves, at the time of DeShon's resignation the school district's bank account contained just \$14. "But this goes beyond the dollars and cents," Graves said. "Because DeShon was a respected school official and long-time educator who abused the public's trust."

One of his roles as the superintendent was to ascertain funds the school was to receive from the Missouri Securities Investment Program (MOSIP) ended up in the school's bank account. Instead, in September of 2000 DeShon faxed MOSIP information about his personal account at Northwest Missouri Regional Credit Union, declaring it was the school's second account. He told the program to wire all the money to the district's "second account." In an attempt to conceal the fraud, DeShon created false accounting entries saying the MOSIP account had the proper amount and went as far as to say the account earned up to \$60,000 in interest. Though DeShon could face up to 10 years in prison, Graves told the Associated Press he will more than likely just be sentenced to between 30 and 37 months. Robert Bruner, who has been Pattonsburg's superintendent since just after DeShon left in October, said he thinks DeShon's actions probably caused the district's tax levy to go up, but he wasn't sure yet by how much. "There were a lot of victims in this crime," Bruner said. "There were a lot of things that were done that were inappropriate." Bruner said he'll research the impact of DeShon's theft over the next few days, but the school district is insured and he expects it to recover most of the losses. "DeShon acknowledged in court that he was addicted to gambling prior to his employment with the school district," Graves said. "And that much of the embezzled money was lost gambling."

Ambulance board to vote on TIF funds at next meeting

BY DENNIS SHARKEY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Nodaway County Ambulance Board will vote at next month's board meeting, on whether to claim tax revenue from the Town Center TIF project or make a deal with the city allowing TIF bonds to be paid off sooner. Maryville Mayor Michael Thompson and City Manager Matt Chesnut stated their case to the board at Wednesday night's meeting. Both men agreed the process of approving the TIF project has not been a smooth one but a learning experience. If the district chooses, they can claim 50 to 100 percent of the sales tax increment. According to figures presented by Chesnut, if the ambulance board claims the tax it will drop the projected increments from 140 percent to 125 percent, adding on three years to the projected payoff time of 12 years. Board member Brian McPhearson expressed concern that the board should have been part of the TIF commission in the first place. "We're paying almost 20 percent on this and we have no representation," McPhearson said. "I'm just curious how we're paying 20 percent and you guys didn't even ask us to come over and sit on the commission."

please see "AMBULANCE" 5A

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Byron Jackson and the Bearcats were left upset after a loss to Southwest Baptist. More sports in section B

LOCAL FORECAST

FRIDAY
Chance rain/snow
High: 41
Low: 21

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 50
Low: 21

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
High: 42
Low: 19

Recycling competition earns Northwest high ranking

BY BRENT CHAPPELOW
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Northwest students, faculty and staff currently score higher than Harvard University in RecycleMania results.

Colleges and universities across the nation are participating in RecycleMania, a competition designed to demonstrate support of environmental conservation.

RecycleMania began Jan. 31, and the competition continues through April 9. The University entered RecycleMania in two different competitions.

The first competition compares recycling rates per capita for all on-campus residents by weighing items placed in residence halls, The Union and The Station recycling containers. The second competition weighs recycled items for the whole campus.

The Feb. 26 results show Northwest in 20th place for the first competition, with 11.93 recycled pounds per student.

The campus-wide competition comparing trash and recycling weights places Northwest much higher.

The University is in sixth place, beating schools such as the University of Colorado at Boulder, Harvard University and the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"I think the competition is showing people on campus that with all of the

other colleges involved, Northwest can really stand out," said Kelsy Lechner, sophomore. "Northwest has always done really well with recycling, now we can show other colleges too."

Lezlee Johnson, associate director of environmental services, said the University currently produces 29,000-30,000 pounds of trash and 12,100 pounds of recycled materials.

"We're doing a lot of things right to start with," Johnson said. "The whole idea shouldn't be to generate a lot of paper. It's a lot better to treat the environment well than to just recycle more paper."

The University did not record recycling rates before the competition, so Johnson does not know if the recycling rate increased with RecycleMania; however, she said some people are taking advantage of the contest.

"I've heard of several departments which have said, 'Hm, maybe now's a good time to clean out our filing cabinets,'" Johnson said.

To encourage participation, the Residence Hall Association Safety and Environmental Awareness Committee instigated a competition between the halls for pledges to recycle. Halfway through the competition, SEAC announced the South Complex as midterm winner with 57 percent of residents participating.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY ALBUS / NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN
Katie Waigand waits patiently to donate blood to the American Red Cross. Phi Mu and Student Senate sponsored the spring blood drive that returned 68 pints of blood. The event was held Tuesday and Wednesday at The Station.

Annual blood drive saves lives

BY KYLIE MCDONOUGH
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Some Northwest students and community members take ten minutes out of their day to donate blood.

Student Senate sponsored Northwest's spring blood drive Tuesday and Wednesday at The Station.

For the past three semesters, Phi Mu co-sponsored the event with Student Senate. The sorority lost a sister Jacklyn Bierking, in recent years so the group volunteers to help at the event as well.

Every year, Northwest holds a fall and spring blood drive for those willing to give a pint of their blood. They collected 68 pints of blood from the 93 who volunteered.

"There are a lot of people sick right now," student senate events planning chair Kim Dalzell said.

Most of the time the veins they take the blood from prove easy to find and use, but on occasion the volunteer's veins will not cooperate.

"On average we find the vein," Mary Jane blood drive technician said. "It's unusual when we can't find a vein."

Northwest students and community volunteers take part in the activity. Some students said they give blood because they had family members need blood transfusions, and by giving blood they may save lives.

Most people have no difficulties with the process, but occasionally

problems arise, such as someone feeling faint or passing out.

"When they start getting lightheaded or feeling warm, they tell us," Jolinda Snapp blood drive technician said. "We lay them back and put a warm cloth on their head."

Technicians spend between five and ten minutes on each individual. The blood is useless if the person goes longer than 20 minutes.

"The shortest I've taken blood is four minutes," Snapp said. "The longest I've taken is 18 minutes."

Last semester the blood drive saw record-breaking results, but numbers were lower for this event.

"I just wish more people would be motivated to give blood," Dalzell said. "One pint of blood saves three lives."

Sprinkler recall affects University

BY ASHLEY BALLY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Due to a nationwide recall of 3,000 defective sprinkler heads are currently being replaced in several University buildings.

According to Health and Safety Manager Scott Walk, Central Sprinkler Co. commissioned Continental Sprinkler Co. to handle the replacement work. Two Continental employees handle all the changes.

Buildings in need of sprinkler replacement are Colden Hall, South Complex, Roberta Hall, the Administration Building and the Student Union. Updates to the Administration Building were completed Feb. 22 and replacements are currently underway in Roberta Hall.

Evidence of corrosion over time resulted in the recall, as the buildup could prevent the sprinkler head from opening to release water.

In order to complete the repairs, water lines will have to be drained and will release an odor. Walk assures students the temporary odor poses no health hazard.

At the conclusion of the lawsuits against Central Sprinkler, Tyco Fire Building Products purchased the company and currently lead the recall. Nationally, an estimated 35 million replacements will be made.

Walk began handling paperwork photographing the sprinkler heads in 2001.

"Northwest is not considered high risk; they went to nursing homes and hospitals before reaching the educational facilities," Walk said.

The first installation of the sprinkler heads was in Roberta Hall in 1994 during the remodeling project.

Replacements are scheduled to be completed toward the end of March. Replacements in Colden Hall are being postponed until Spring Break, to prevent interference with classes.

Lecture series brings Kerry Kennedy

BY ASHLEY BALLY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Closing this year's Distinguished Lecture Series, Kerry Kennedy, International Civil Rights Activist, author and daughter to Robert F. Kennedy, will speak at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the Mary Linn Auditorium.

Through her program, Speak Truth to Power, Kennedy will address the issues of human rights abuse and acknowledge those currently battling these violations around the world.

"She's a world expert on human and

children's rights," said Director of Campus Activities Bryan VanOsedale. "This is something we need to be aware of at this time in history."

Kennedy began working for human rights in 1981 and devotes her life to the cause. She led over three dozen human rights delegations.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial. Kennedy also established the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights. Additionally, serves as chairperson of the Amnesty International Leadership Council.

HALO 2
MARCH 18TH



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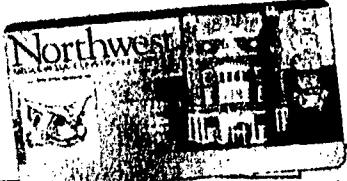
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City secures federal funding for regional airport project

KELSEY GARRISON
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Northwest Missouri Regional Airport received a funding boost last week to construct a new terminal building.

The airport received a \$450,000 grant from General Services Administration, part of a \$1.5 million project to build a new terminal.

They plan to build the terminal to accommodate pilots who want to use the facility and to extend the current runway span to allow larger jets and some small jets to land. The funding will also go toward construction of flat surfaces such as runways, taxiways and parking to allow the planes to de-

part and land properly.

The city originally received \$596,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but HUD regulations forced them to allocate the money toward the downtown revitalization project.

The city secured \$450,000 from the GSA.

"It actually covers a portion of the project that wasn't going to be covered by any Federal Aviation Administration funding," City Manager Matt Chesnut said.

They to add convenience to the facility and differentiate it from other airports.

"We're going to have a facility that very few airports our size are going to have and it's going to be a

huge economic draw," Assistant City Manager Matt Unrein said. "Maryville is going to have a leg up on some of its other competitors here regionally, for that air traffic."

Before official building of the terminal—slated to start as early as the fall—begins, some pre-site work must be done regarding the sewer system and other utilities.

"It's basically to improve what we have out there now," Chesnut said. "Our goal is to show not only our current businesses, but potential businesses that we're serious about transportation, not only with roads and streets and air travel."

Kelsey Garrison can be contacted at 562-1224 or k254556@mail.nwmissouri.edu

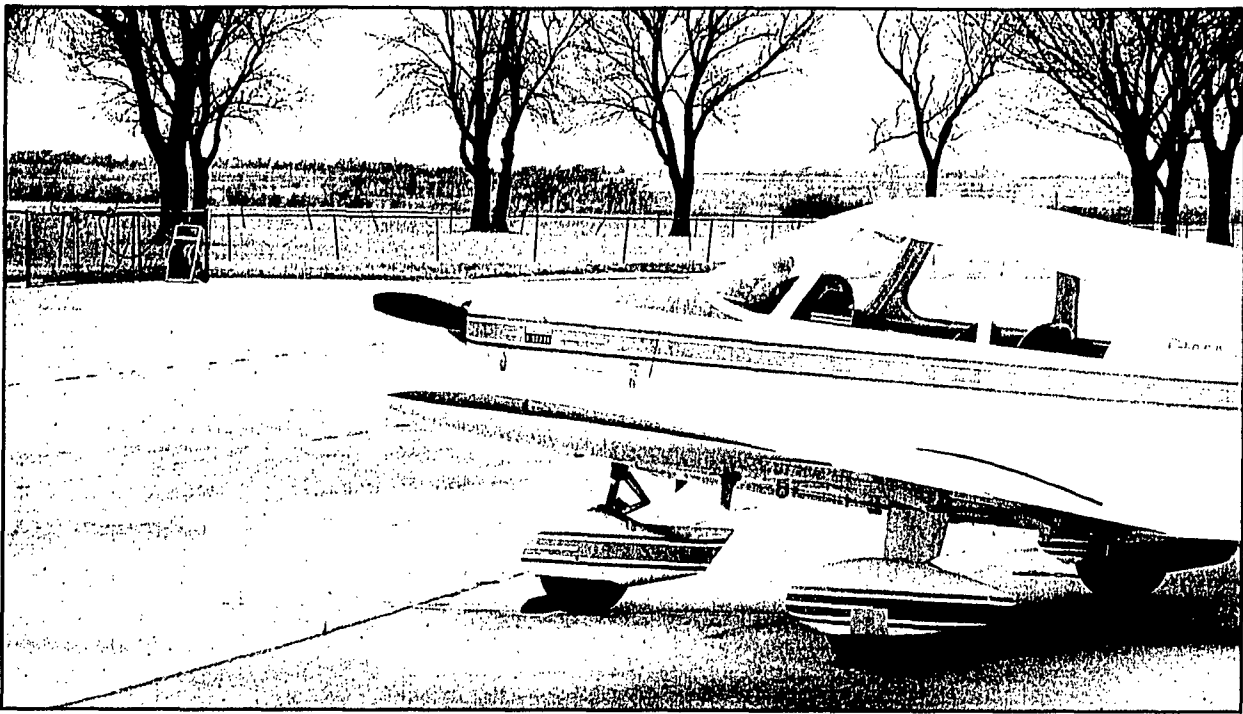


PHOTO BY MASAKI OYATA/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

City officials recently received a \$450,000 in federal funding to assist the current Northwest Missouri Regional Airport project. The funds will go toward building a new airport terminal and to extend their runway and tarmac south of the current facility. The improvements are projected to cost \$1.5 million.



PHOTO BY ADAM WATSON/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Carter and Brian Sanley prepare prescriptions for customers during a busy day at Carter's Pharmacy. The pharmacy has been in business for two decades.

Pharmacist educates patients for nearly two decades

BY DALLAS READ
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The shrill clicking of pills being dropped, separated and bottled sets the tempo for another day of work for Pharmacist Rick Carter.

The front counter of Carter's Pharmacy is congested with various colored pills and prescription bottles as Carter paces past them into his office, clutching a cell phone to his ear.

"We basically fill prescriptions all day long," Carter says.

The clattering pills and constant pacing has been the rhythm of Carter's Pharmacy, which has been in business for nearly two decades. In fact, Carter will celebrate his 20th year of operation.

"(I was) raised and educated in this country," Carter said. "You don't get much more hometown than that."

Roaming through the halls of Garrett Strong as an undecided major, Carter glanced at a sign that would ultimately decide his fate. A "Top-10 Jobs of the Future" list ranked pharmacist as one of the nation's top occupations.

While attending Northwest, Carter studied pre-pharmacy and received his first pharmaceutical job at Haines Drug in Maryville. Carter would leave Nodaway County for the first time in his life to attend UMKC's pharmacy school. Four years later, he returned to Maryville, where he opened his first business.

"The best part is (helping) a lot of the people that I've known for a long while and helping parents of the people I grew up with," Carter said.

Carter's business has been successful in competing with major companies like Wal-Mart and Hy-Vee for many distinct reasons.

Carter believes the most affective attribute that separates him from corporate juggernauts is a service he calls "patient education."

"Say you're a diabetic. You come in and we talk to you a little bit about diabetes education (so you) know a little bit about what your disease is," he says.

By sitting down with many of his customers to discuss their medication and diets, Carter offers clients vast amounts of information to help them understand their prescription.

Carter has discovered that "patient education," his customers use fewer medications and maintain better health. He believes "patient education" is the next step in pharmaceutical practices and ultimately, in the future, costs to keep people healthy will decline for insurance companies.

"He takes time out for the cus-

tomers," pharmacy employee Deb Garrett said. "We have customers that get their prescriptions from someplace else and they ask him what it does."

Brian Sanley, a pre-pharmacy student who works for Carter, stands over a turquoise tray, using a file to separate the correct amount of pills for a prescription. He is one of the dozen students that Carter has hired to work for internships.

"(Rick) got me to go to my first Monday Night Football game," Sanley said. "We're going to the Big XII Tournament, and these are all little things that don't end up on your paycheck."

Sanley slides a group of pills across the tray into another prescription bottle. He estimates over 8,000 pills are bottled everyday for the 220 prescriptions processed. As he closes the bottle and places it on a shelf behind him, a ringing phone interrupts the clattering pills.

St. Gregory's students lobby for area youth center; hope to form partnership with city

SAMUEL MUCHIRI
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Members of the St. Gregory's Catholic School's Public Achievement group constructed a plan to build a Youth Center in Maryville.

Three St. Gregory's students, Joseph Jasinski, Ashton Kimble and Beth Seipel along with teacher Baker presented their plans to City Council members last Wednesday.

Before drafting plans, the group surveyed more than 500 students in Horace Mann, Eugene Field, and Maryville Middle Schools to reach a consensus on what the center should include for patrons. The survey revealed that kids wanted ping pong and foosball tables along with numerous entertainment and food venues.

"Kids in Maryville from this age group have nowhere to go; they don't have their own money, they don't have their own vehicle," Seipel said. "So they need a place

to go that's safe, supervised and structured. Research supports the fact that if kids have something to do, they get in less trouble and cause less destruction in their community."

In addition to the survey, the students continue to work to form a possible partnership with Maryville Parks and Recreation.

The group has not pinpointed a specific location for the center, but they hope to secure a spot near downtown.

Mayor Mike Thompson believes the center would be a positive development for area teens, and he hopes something will come of the group's current plans.

"I think it's a fantastic idea, when kids are trying to solve the society's problems and we should listen to them," Thompson said.

Grants would constitute the majority of the project's funding, but the group is considering other funding options including \$20 yearly passes.

But regardless of all the red tape—the funding, building location, etc., Jasinski believes the center will be a prosperous venture for teens and the entire Maryville community.

"I feel very strongly about it and I feel it should be pushed through so that we can have a community that is free from drugs, alcohol and violence," Jasinski said.

"I FEEL IT SHOULD BE PUSHED THROUGH SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A COMMUNITY THAT IS FREE FROM DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE."

—Joseph Jasinski
St. Gregory's student

City considers updating existing building codes

Citizens' group outlines concerns with outdated maintenance codes

BY SEAN COMER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Maryville City Council may soon adopt a new set of building codes that expand and update the last set adopted in 2001.

The idea of adding new codes began in Eggs & Issues, an informal group of Northwest officials and Student Senate members, business owners and community leaders who meet over breakfast to discuss community concerns.

As people expressed concerns about property upkeep issues including trash pile-up on curbs, poor sidewalk maintenance and peeling paint on doors, the group formed a codes committee with advice from Codes Enforcement Officer James Wiederholt.

"When we asked, how do we get more specific so we can address these things and give these ordinances some teeth, Jim proposed this international

code," said Maryville business owner Dave Weigel.

According to Wiederholt, the International Property Maintenance Code will update and clarify the current building codes. References in the 1991 Uniform Housing Code are out of date with current fire, building and electrical codes.

"It's a more comprehensive and specific code, as it relates to maintenance items," Wiederholt said. "The key differences are that the International Property Maintenance Code covers all property, residential and non-residential, and that it compliments Maryville's other adopted codes."

If the council accepts Weigel's recent proposal, Maryville would adopt the 2000 International Property Maintenance Code. The new codes contain most aspects of the current 2000 International Building Code, but contains more specific emphases on external appearance and maintenance.

Weigel said maintaining properties extends beyond keeping up the actual buildings.

"It's not just the building itself, it's how you keep up the entire premises,"

Weigel said. "You see a weed growing. All of a sudden it's a couple of inches taller and all of a sudden it looks like a shrub."

Weigel, along with Chamber of Commerce members and business owners, will prepare a more detailed set of proposed changes near the end of March. Weigel's committee could present the case to the city council next month. To prepare, Weigel collaborated recently with city officials to determine needed additions.

"We're all in sync on what we'd like to see done here, but it's as simple as giving the codes department the right tools to enforce some of the violations," Weigel said.

Weigel said the entire community needs to participate in preserving an adequate image of Maryville.

"It's more of an awareness thing, and it's a matter of cooperation," Weigel said. "A group of us went and pressure-washed the entire square and we noticed in the weeks that followed, a block, two blocks from the square, people were doing the same thing. It's a pride-in-ownership thing; if people would take care of their own property, we wouldn't need a group like this."

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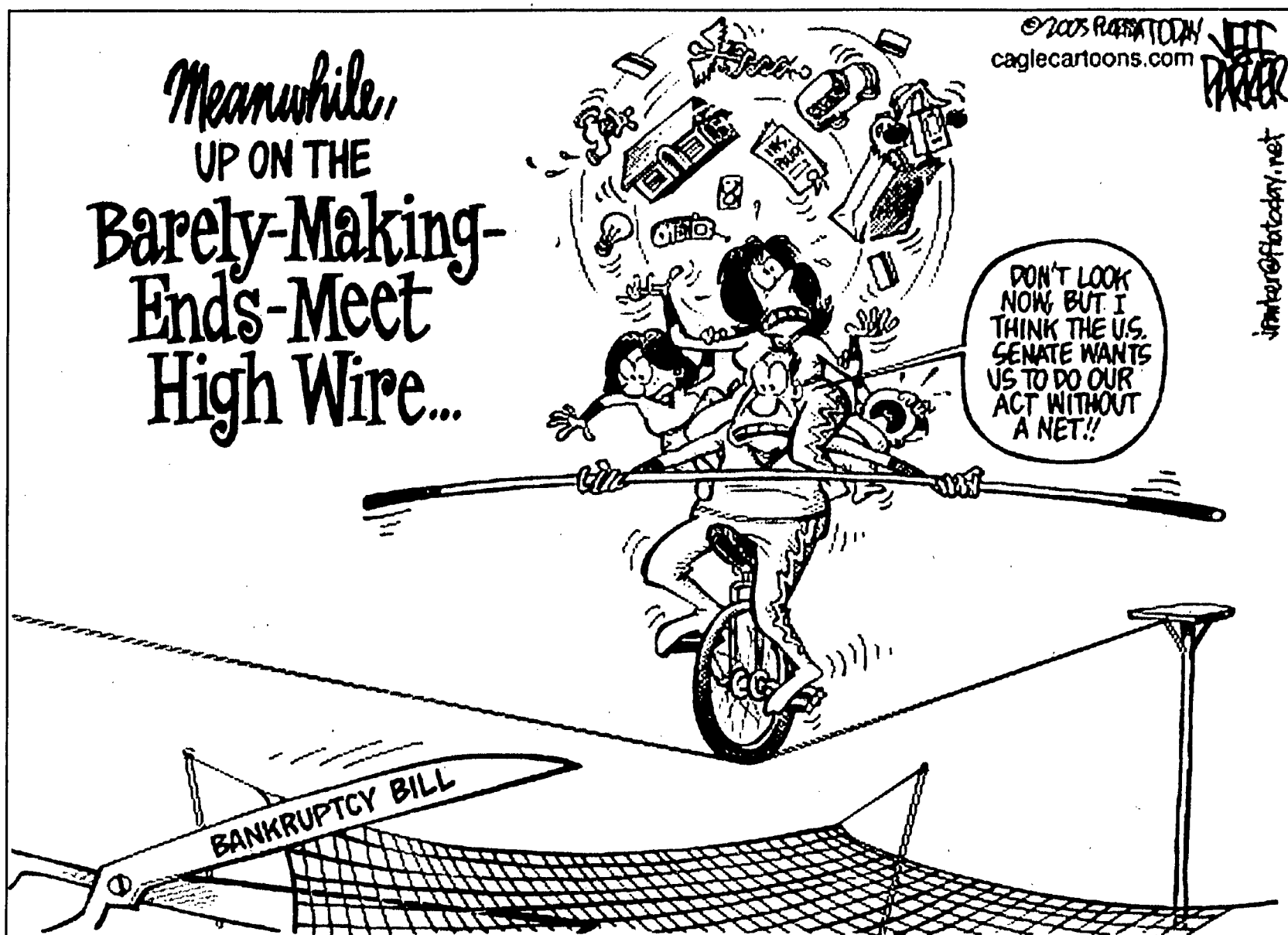
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Our View

Cowardly act

With the car vandalisms on campus and now Campus Safety's car getting torched, the childish pranks need to stop.

They are the ones who are here to protect and serve, carry a gun, and patrol campus looking for perpetrators. They have one of their cars burned?

Campus Safety has been the latest victim of a rash of cowardly vandalism acts plaguing Northwest.

Vandals strike during the night and leaving unsuspecting victims to find the damage the next time they go out to their vehicles.

Childish pranks are nothing new to Northwest. In the fall of 2002, someone pulled fire alarms in Hudson Hall at 3 a.m. on three consecutive Thursday mornings.

Last spring, a few Hudson residents felt the need to "help" the hall's rebuilding process by attempting to light Hudson on fire. Numerous fliers taped to doors were torched while other individuals thought it fun to test fire extinguishers in the stairwells.

The newest ideas: slash students' tires and set a Campus Safety car on fire.

We beg to ask the question: when is this going to end?

Is there a total lack of respect for those employed to protect students? Does a parking ticket anger someone that much?

Immaturity and a lack of respect are not tolerated at Northwest by the faculty or students. This isn't high school anymore. Thoughtless, destruc-

tive pranks are no longer funny, less paying fines and spending time behind bars sounds like a good time. Besides, someone will accidentally reveal the guy down the hall that committed these acts and the party will be over.

If it's not a prank, but rather an act of revenge, then there may be more issues to address. First of all, Northwest is not a big campus. Takes ten minutes - 15 at the most cross.

For those who live off campus, those living on campus whose transportation is their automobile, fire lanes are for fire trucks—not Dodge Ram 4X4s. Handicapped stalls are ones marked in blue and fifteen minutes is a quarter of an hour, and contrary to popular belief, time does slow down on campus.

Campus Safety exists here to protect students attending Northwest and they achieve this by any means within reason. A \$20 parking ticket may save the lives of 200 students and 30 faculty one day when a fire breaks out and the emergency vehicles can park in their designated areas.

Before committing the next "brilliant idea," think about the consequences. People's lives are more important than getting a laugh out of mindless pranks.

Oblivion proves bittersweet for reporter

My View



Pete Gutschenritter
Convergence

School sucks. Class sucks. Work sucks.

These phrases have been exuded by college students arguably since the first form of higher learning was established in this country.

Now, it's as trendy as ever to complain about how bad you have it and how you just want to get the hell out of here.

I should know, because I am at the forefront of those aforementioned quips.

Yet, the more I think I know about college life—along with its cultures, politics and people—the less I know.

Case in point: the new-look editorial board at *The Northwest Missourian*. Having been with the paper for six trimesters, I've had the privilege of working with very talented journalists who have since gone on to great careers. Not to say the people roaming in Wells Hall today aren't doing good things now—they do excellent work—but it's just a different culture.

But within that culture, I've discovered some interesting insight from the last two issues of *The Missourian*.

Hidden inside the Sports section of the Feb. 17 edition, Assistant Sports Editor Brendan Kelley's column caught my eye. Titled "Life's lessons learned through fishing," Kelley makes an interesting observation de-

rived from his time spent fishing:

"Life is not always about the actual action of doing something, but rather what comes from you doing something," Kelley writes.

In Kelley's case, he fishes as a form of escape from the outside world. What a concept.

In the Feb. 24 edition, University News Editor Ashley Bally's column opened my eyes in a different way. In recapping a conversation she had with a 21-year-old infantry specialist headed to Iraq, Bally states: "I began to realize that lately I have been so involved in my own world that I had forgotten about the men and women still fighting in Iraq that need our support and prayers every day."

I couldn't agree with Bally more, as I too lose sight of the larger things going on in society.

The more I think I know, the less I know. Both of those columns are proof of that.

Another instance of this lies in my flawed thinking of the purported real world. As I went back to my old stomping grounds in Omaha, Neb., I found out that my childhood neighbor and friend has already moved on to an engineering job after graduating from Iowa State University in three and one-half years. As I found that out, I thought to myself, "He's

going to be working the rest of his life starting at the age of 22. Yuck." Shortly thereafter, I realized I could be in that exact spot in one year. Yuck.

The more I know, the less I know. One of my baseball coaches used to tell my teammates and I that. But naturally, he'd use it in a baseball sense. As a lifelong player and coach, he always said, "Just when you think you have the game all figured out, you learn something new."

As I escaped Maryville, the real world and everything else that smelled like work for two days this weekend, I realized I've been walking with blinders on—concentrating so hard on what it is I want to do, and figuring out what I need to do in order to be successful.

Just about that time though, I found myself playing—what else—baseball with four of my second cousins. They were having a great time, swinging at ping-pong and tennis balls with a makeshift bat. They don't know, nor they care, about the world of politics and the supposed real world. They're lucky.

The more I think I know, the less I know. And that's all I know. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Reader perplexed by conservative column, demands unique thought

I'll admit, reading Sean Comer's column made me angry at first, but it struck a chord with me for less than typical reasons. I'm basing this on the assumption that most, if any, who responded to last week's column entitled "Conservatives deserve a voice, too" did so in regard to the issues Comer addresses in the main body. However, I was disturbed more by discrepancies near the beginning and end.

There's nothing wrong with a variety of opinion—democracy would not function without a juxtaposition of views. However, Comer writes of originality, uniqueness and a right to personal views. Confusingly enough, none of the views stated as the author's own wander from the conservative platform. Unique views? These are simply regurgitated from what politicians have professed as the rightwing point of view.

Instead of complaining about not having a voice, use it. If these views are seldom heard, make a potent intellectual and political statement rather than lodging a complaint with the general population and "daring" people to contradict what has been stated. The address and conclusion make it sound like Comer was a child bullied and shoved headfirst into the liberal toilet during recess.

In the past, Comer has published

various articles with conservative tones—well researched, well written. In this, however, he writes of "playing the game" to gain a foothold among other liberal journalists, yet it seems to best accomplish his goals, he needs to be above the back-alley kicks claim to have been aimed his way. Instead, rising above, he debases himself, resorts to redundant speeches used to air his personal aggression. Rather than inform the reader of his singular expression, why not prove his point by continuing to get published? Of course people will disagree, even co-workers on the publication's staff. But it's a sign he's respected if he's already been, and is, being published.

Rather than regale the reader with a litany of "personal" views, write a column from one's own mind—which I highly doubt is quite so white and black as stated. Ideals and platforms are worth to hold in esteem, but it's hard to believe an individual's beliefs fit so nicely into the molded right-wing stereotype. Don't abuse the column and give the public reiterated rhetoric—I challenge Comer to use his position to write from his singular unique point of view about issues that truly concern him.

THERESA CHIODA
NORTHWEST STATE

Widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots

My View



Dennis Sharkey
Chief Reporter

With over a billion dollars being spent on the war in Iraq each week and President George Bush's reluctance to raise taxes for the wealthy, it's hard to justify budget cuts to education programs.

The latest cuts focus on the Adult Education Literacy program which helps people earn their GED and provides learning services for adults who can't read or write.

According to figures provided by the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, last year's budget for the AEL was \$501 million; half of the weekly war budget. With the 2005-06 fiscal budget, this number would reduce to roughly \$132 million. Missouri's share last year was \$9.2 million. Next year that number

would be reduced to \$2.3 million.

The federal government supplies nearly 60 percent of funding for the program and cutting it by 66 percent is not only wrong, but is also a social crime against the American public.

There is already a gap in literacy; cutting the funding will only widen this gap and will trickle down, causing other social problems to increase.

Cutting the AEL budget will only force additional spending in other areas where spending needs to be reduced. Illiteracy leads to more unemployment and welfare claims and increased spending on crime and drug enforcement.

When people are literate and possess the ability needed like reading and writing, they will be less likely

to commit crimes and more likely to become a productive member of society.

If this budget goes through the AEL will not only be crippled, but will almost certainly be forced to shut down many of their programs.

AEL is the most cost-effective educational system in place. Volunteers help staff the program and the yearly average cost per student is about \$230, compared to the hundreds or thousands of dollars spent on each student in the public education system.

America is known as the land of opportunity but will soon become the land of illiteracy, unemployment and insecurity.

Your View

Will you shop in St. Joseph now instead of going to Kansas City?



"No, because I don't really leave Maryville to shop and if I do, it's to go back home to Omaha."

AMY JULIANO
Pre-Zoology



"Yes, because now I won't have to drive down to Kansas City anymore to get the random things I need."

BRAD SPARKS
Public Relations



"I will go there to check out girls because it is closer than Kansas City, but I will still frequent Kansas City."

JOSH WINKLER
Math Education



"No, because I hate St. Joseph; it just slows down my time to get back to Kansas City."

SPENCER SINKHORN
Undecided

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LOBBY: Students push for state funds

Continued from 1A
Students traveled to Jefferson Tuesday to address legislators regarding higher education, as part of Northwest's Legislative Reception Day.

The trip presented students an opportunity to witness firsthand operations of functioning government and discuss issues that affect their everyday lives.

Arriving at 9:30 a.m., the students participated in a morning session to prepare before speaking with the legislators. The students spoke on a number of topics stemming from higher education.

After being sorted into smaller groups the students then traveled around the building to talk to different legislators. According to University Relations Legislative

Assistant Wendy Shoemyer, it was difficult to catch some of the 200 legislators because they were in session all day.

Nisha Bharti, freshman, spoke with Representative Todd Smith about the merger drop that would have made Northwest a part of the UM system.

"Smith was glad that we aren't merging because he thought we would lose our identity," Bharti said. "We are already a good school and don't need the merger, so he's glad that it didn't pass."

The legislators asked questions about Northwest and listened to what the students had to say.

"When we met with the representatives we introduced ourselves and asked what they would like to

know about Northwest," Bharti said. "They asked us our opinions about the merger plans and the American Dream Grant."

After utilizing the morning to speak directly with legislators, some students took the opportunity to sit in during a session where legislators discussed a pro-life abortion bill.

The bill currently being discussed would implement more restrictions on abortion rights even going beyond Roe v. Wade, Shoemyer said.

Following a luncheon, students listened to a speech given by Wes Shoemyer.

According to Shoemyer, the speech aimed to encourage students to not be apologetic when

discussing the budget for higher education and funding the University needs.

"Coming here really makes a good impression on the legislators and when it's time to consider the budget and how much funding to give Northwest they'll remember the students and our school," Shoemyer said.

Northwest was the only university present for this event. The University has been participating in the Legislative Reception since the 1980s.

"It's a really good experience, because students believe that legislators are unapproachable," Shoemyer said. "Students learn that they are approachable and care about their needs."

PRICES: On the rise again, future appears bleak

Continued from 1A

"The oil cartel which is dominated by major producers in the middle east is having a field day," Right said. "The demand for crude oil is strong and increasing. So long as somebody is going to buy that barrel for \$55 then they are going to sell it for \$55. And if they want to buy it at \$60, they'll sell it to you for \$60."

Nevertheless, OPEC does not shoulder all of the blame for rising market prices, according to Right.

"You have to look at what your priorities are in respect to fuel economy," Right said. "If you want a Hummer and don't care about what gas costs, then fine. But if you

want a vehicle that is going to continue to service your needs and still gives economical transportation, fuel economy is going to be an increasing concern."

Although prices continue to soar, Right offers the following tips to absorb some of the costs:

- Choose an appropriate octane—check the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations and choose accordingly.

- Check tire pressures—Under inflated tires rob vehicles of fuel economy.

- Unload excess vehicle weights—excess weight from bulk items also cheats vehicles of fuel economy.

Republicans push for premiums

By J. CARLSON
Staff Writer

House Republicans are backing a plan to require more families in the Mc+ for health care program to pay premiums in order to restore some proposed cuts to the Medicaid program for the elderly and disabled.

A House appropriations committee is debating the proposal Wednesday.

The plan would restore \$242 million in state and federal spending cuts for Medicaid and other social service programs proposed in Gov. Matt Blunt's budget. Democrats criticized the plan, saying it does not go far enough in preserving Medicaid services and shifts the burden of costs to families with children.

"We should not be balancing the budget on the backs of the poor, disabled and particularly not on the backs of children," Rep. Margaret Donnelly, D-St. Louis, said. But Republican Budget Chairman D. L. Lager defended the proposal, saying it would allow the Legislature to balance the budget while preserving some important programs.

The Mc+ for Kids program provides health care to families earning up to three times the federal poverty level (\$56,550 for a family of four). The proposal would require a family of four earning at least \$28,275 per year to pay monthly premiums based on a sliding scale. Currently, only those earning three times the federal poverty level must pay premiums. Republicans estimate the change could save the state \$8.1 million.

To save additional dollars, the plan also recommends taxing in-home service providers and reducing the amount of money paid to pharmacies through the Medicaid program.

That money would be used to increase the number of elderly and disabled eligible for Medicaid coverage under the governor's budget. The House Republican plan would allow elderly or disabled earning 85 percent of the federal poverty level—about \$7,920 per year for an individual—to qualify for Medicaid. The governor had recommended reducing the eligibility requirement for the elderly and disabled from the current \$9,310 annual income to approximately \$7,200 annually.

Gov. Blunt's first baby born

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) - Gov. Matt Blunt's first child, a boy, was born Wednesday night, the governor's office said.

Blunt and his wife, Melanie, named their child William Branch Blunt. Mother and son were in good health and the 34-year-old governor was "elated," said Blunt spokesman Spence Jackson.

William Branch was born at 7:08 p.m., weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 19 1/2 inches long, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Jackson said.

Senators erupted in applause when Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder announced the gubernatorial birth during the middle of a Senate debate on one of Blunt's priority bills, which would place new restrictions on injury lawsuits.

Blunt's staff remained at the Capitol to monitor the debate while he spent the day with his wife at the hospital.

The baby was due next Sunday, but the family had expected him to arrive early.

AMBULANCE

Continued from 1A

Thompson and Chesnut both agreed this was a learning process and Thompson promised not to exclude the ambulance board on the next TIF issue.

"We're learning as we go," Thompson said. "I'm listening to this and I'll present this at council. If there's a way that we can get better representation for you all, we'll make it happen."

Thompson said the original project just called for renovating the old Wal-Mart building, and that is what peaked the city's interest in doing the project with D.J. Christie. At that point, Thompson said the city was approached by Hy-Vee because the store was struggling in competing with Wal-Mart. The Hy-Vee people expressed interest in a new, state-of-the-art store competitive with Wal-Mart. Thompson said at that point, the project focus changed.

"We see Hy-Vee as a partner with Maryville," Thompson said. "We were never told that they would leave; but we were never told that they wouldn't leave, either."

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Campus Safety



Dave Barnes will appear at Northwest on April 8 in conjunction with Campus Crusade for Christ

Sophomore album leaves artist still searching for individual sound

BY COLE YOUNG
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Listening to Dave Barnes' newest album, *Brother Bring the Sun*, listeners have to beg Barnes to bring some originality.

Many students on campus aren't exactly well-versed in the alternative Christian music scene, but those that are can't help but think they are listening to Matt Wertz throughout the 11-track disc.

Throughout, he seems to lack any tracks that wake the listener from the daze they fall into during songs "Crazyboutya" and "Until You."

While Barnes is still in the toddler stages of his music, one is left to wonder whether they are listening to the same old song and dance within the acoustic Christian realm.

However, his album isn't without its high points. The track "Grace's Amazing Hands" tells the story of every college guy who finally lands the girl who, in his eyes, is entirely out of his league.

Barnes says this album is about a simple kind of love and that is what many of his songs entail.

However, during his track "What am I Gonna Do," he begins to talk about the not so bright sides of love.

In that song, he talks about how without anyone he can be courageous and strong but at the same time can be a horrible person. Essentially, he lays it out and says he needs the perfect girl.

Wertz's "Counting to 100" anyone?

It is still scary, however, to think two artists, Wertz and Barnes, could sound so much alike. Whether or not this is a Chris Gaines-like act is still unknown. It goes as far as Barnes listing Wertz as the first artist he thanks in his credits.

If either one of these two wants to break into the mainstream, the first thing they need to do is stop performing at the same venues at the same time. Should they decide to continue performing together, they should find a variance in styles.

To put them in a more mainstream sense, it would be like John Mayer and Jack Johnson (who also just came out with a new album) touring together.

Barnes will perform at Northwest April 8, without Wertz.

Herek's "Man of the House" falls short of expectations

BY BEN KOEHN
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

After realizing director Stephen Herek brought us such fare as *The Mighty Ducks*, *Mr. Holland's Opus* and *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*, one might have high hopes for the quality and humor that could come from his latest film, *Man of the House*. But when you leave *Man of the House* it's easy to realize Herek is also the same man that brought us *Rock Star*, *Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead* and *Critters*.

Man of the House seems as though it was written for Adam Sandler in-

stead of Tommy Lee Jones. It's like one of Sandler's excuses to get a bunch of his friends together and waste an hour and a half of my life. The movie doesn't hold together plot-wise, but instead is a series of jokes tied loosely together with bubble gum and mugging.

In *Man of the House* Jones plays Texas Ranger Roland Sharp, a hard-edged, cranky old man who can't communicate with his daughter and whose wife left him because he let work get in the way (that's not too cliché is it?). After the murder of a top witness for a drug kingpin's trial, Sharp is as-

signed to protect the only witnesses who can identify the assassin. Enter five Texas A&M cheerleaders in skimpy outfits who suffer from bouts of uncontrollable gyrating (those poor, poor girls). Much hilarity ensues. Or so we wish.

While the film is made up of nothing more than used culture clash jokes and hot-bodied cheerleaders, Jones does deliver a few laughs. It's almost as if Jones knew the movie would be crap, but decided to give it his all anyway.

The worst part of the film is the film held potential to be even fun-

ner than it was. The supporting cast includes R. Lee Ermy (*Saving Silverman*), Anne Archer (*Patriot Games*), Christina Milian (*Be Cool*) and Cedric the Entertainer (who is billed in advertisements as the second leading man, but only appears in the film for about five minutes.) Herek could have done so much more with this concept and with these actors, but then again, this will probably be a film that Jones and others will refer to as being a "fun shoot" on "Inside the Actor's Studio."

Fun for them, but torture for us.

The Top 5

NIGHTLY TELEVISION SHOWS

1. "American Idol" (Tuesday), Fox
2. "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS
3. ABC Premiere Event, ABC
4. "American Idol" (Wednesday), Fox
5. "American Idol," Fox

MOVIES

1. "The Pacifier," Disney
2. "Be Cool," MGM
3. "Hitch," Sony
4. "Diary of a Mad Black Woman," Lions Gate
5. "Million Dollar Baby," Warner Bros

SONGS

1. "Candy Shop," 50 Cent (feat. Olivia)
2. "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," Green Day
3. "Let Me Love You," Mario, 3rd Street
4. "How We Do," The Game
5. "Disco Inferno," 50 Cent. Shady

(From Billboard magazine)

EVENTS CALENDAR

LOCAL

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Northwest Jazz Ensemble
March 12 @ 5 p.m.
Performing Arts Center
NWMSU | NWMSU DeLuce Gallery
Cuban art exhibition
Mondays 6-9 p.m.
Tuesdays-Saturdays 1-5 p.m.
Sundays 1:30-5 p.m.
Through March 25 | Maryville Middle School
Toy Show
March 12 @ 9 a.m.-5 p.m. |
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| Fish Fry-All You Can Eat
Friday @ 5 p.m.
Knights of Columbus #5067
St. Joseph | Missouriah Mud Bugs
March 19 @ 7 p.m.
Mound City State Theatre | Northwest Singles Dance
March 11 @ 8 p.m.
Free dance lessons
American Legion Post 359 |
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SURROUNDING AREA

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| The Wallflowers
March 15 @ 8 p.m.
Liberty Hall
Kansas City | Maroon 5
April 25 @ 7 p.m.
Pershing Auditorium
Lincoln, Neb. | Movin' Out
Music by Billy Joel
Conceived by Twyla Tharp
March 11 @ 8 p.m.
Des Moines Civic Center |
| Billy Currington
March 17 @ 8 p.m.
Beaumont Club
Kansas City | John Mellencamp
April 1 @ 8 p.m.
Quest Center
Omaha | Grease
The Musical
April 16 @ 2 p.m.
Des Moines Civic Center |

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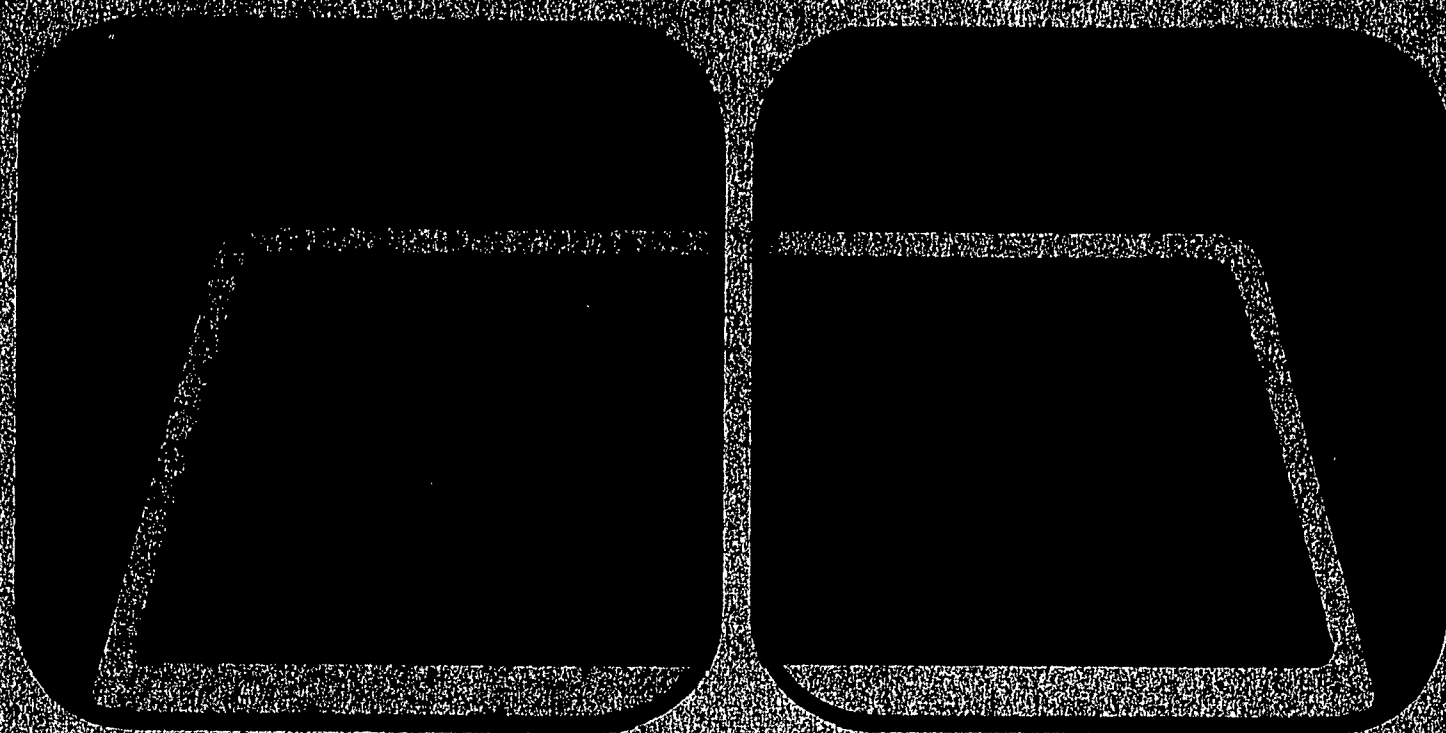
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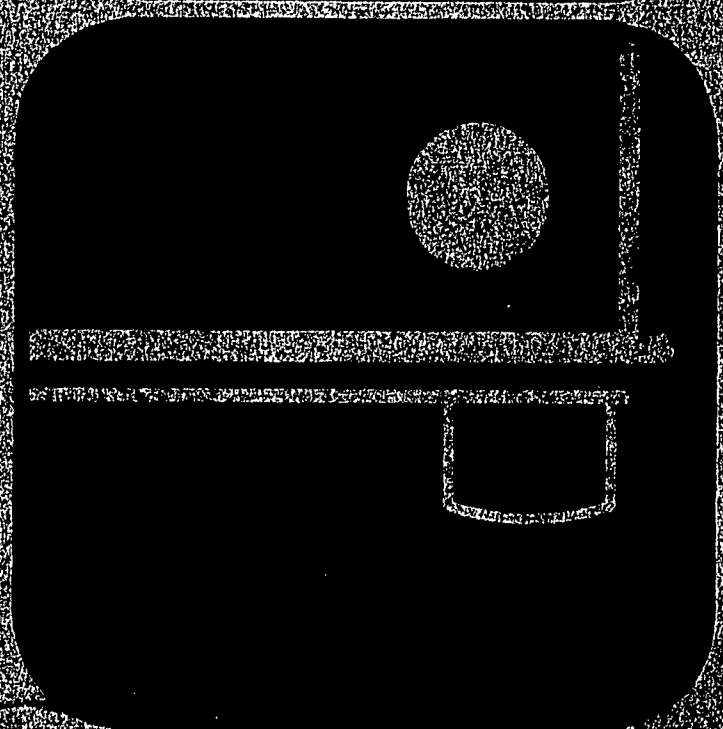
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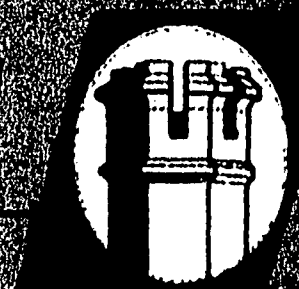


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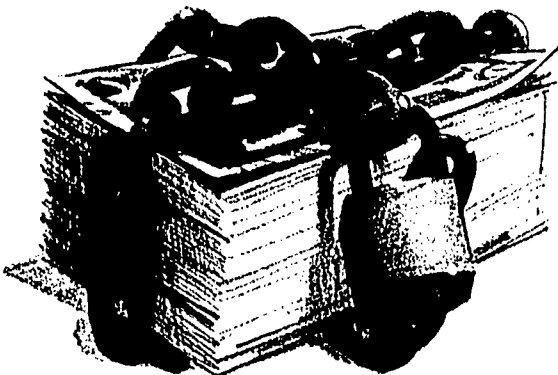


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Free throws, title hopes fall short

BY JEROME BOETTCHER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Josh Wilmes could do was fall to his knees. With his team down by one and a chance to tie the game with a free throw, Wilmes' shot rolled around the rim and out—ending the Maryville boys' basketball team's season. Smithville grabbed the rebound and won for 1.1 seconds to earn a 36-35 victory over Maryville, Wednesday night in Class 3 sectional play at Civic Center in St. Joseph.

for us and we're not in that spot without him. It's one free throw and you have to try to comfort him in the fact that, gosh, we're not that close if he's not having a great fourth quarter."

Maryville trailed by as many as eight points during the fourth quarter; it looked like Smithville would be able to pull away, but then Wilmes took over. He scored the last 10 of the Spoofhounds' last 12 points. With 14.7 seconds left, Maryville trailed 35-34 and after Smithville missed a free throw, Wilmes grabbed the rebound and threw it upcourt to teammate Garin Blair. Unfortunately for Maryville, the pass bounced off Blair's face and out of bounds.

The Spoofhounds immediately

fouled Drew Carey and he hit the first free throw but missed the second. After a Wilmes rebound, Maryville called a time out with 5.4 seconds left in regulation. Wilmes then drove to the basket and was fouled. His first free throw sailed through and Smithville called a timeout to ice him. Wilmes' missed free throw at the end put a damper on a great night for him. He ended with a game-high 24 points, despite having four fouls in the fourth quarter.

"You can't lose a game by one free throw," Wilmes said. "We played like crap in the first half. We just didn't take care of it tonight, and (Smithville) did."

For the complete story of Wednesday night's game check out missourianonline.com



Maryville senior Josh Wilmes fought scrappy defense and foul trouble throughout the Spoofhounds' sectional round of the Missouri State Tournament game Wednesday night in St. Joseph. Smithville defeated the Spoofhounds 36-35.

PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Unfamiliar feeling

Freshman collects first career win in tourney

Team runs record to 7-3 after defeating ranked Emporia, trip to Joplin up next

BY SHAUNDA FRENCH
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Northwest softball team continued their winning streak this past weekend as freshman Lauren Lakebrink received her first collegiate win at the mound at the Missouri Western Tournament.

"I didn't know what to expect and the girls really helped me get focused, they really calmed me down," said Lakebrink.

Lakebrink struck out seven and six different 'Cats all contributed with a hit in the 3-1 victory against Missouri Southern. Lakebrink and Coach Susan Anderson both agree the team's successful start to the season is due to a strong team concept.

"I was very, very pleased with the entire weekend, especially being so early in the season," said Anderson. "Different people are stepping up. It's been a great team effort. MacDonald's pitching has been phenomenal. Johnson's doing a great job behind the plate. Katy Johnson's a terrific lead-off hitter and Lauren (Lakebrink) pitched a terrific

game, getting her first college win."

The Bearcats were shutout in their first game 8-0 on Friday against the University of Nebraska-Omaha, but quickly bounced back with a 2-0 victory against Truman State.

Saturday, Northwest took on No. 19 Emporia State and came away with a 2-1 victory. Senior Shelly MacDonald came away with the win, striking out five and giving only two hits, which both came in the first inning. In the top of the eighth inning, a sacrifice bunt by junior Katy Johnson sent freshman Lauren Lakebrink home for the win.

Northwest fell short in the final game of the tournament, losing 1-0 against No. 16 Missouri Western. MacDonald received the loss as she gave up the lone run in the sixth inning.

The Bearcats were scheduled to play a home game Tuesday against Nebraska-Omaha, but cold weather and a chance of snow postponed the game until April. This leads Northwest to the Teri Zenner Memorial Classic in Joplin, Mo., this Friday and Saturday.

The 'Cats will start against Southwest Oklahoma State at 9 a.m. Friday and Missouri

please see 'SOFTBALL' page 2B

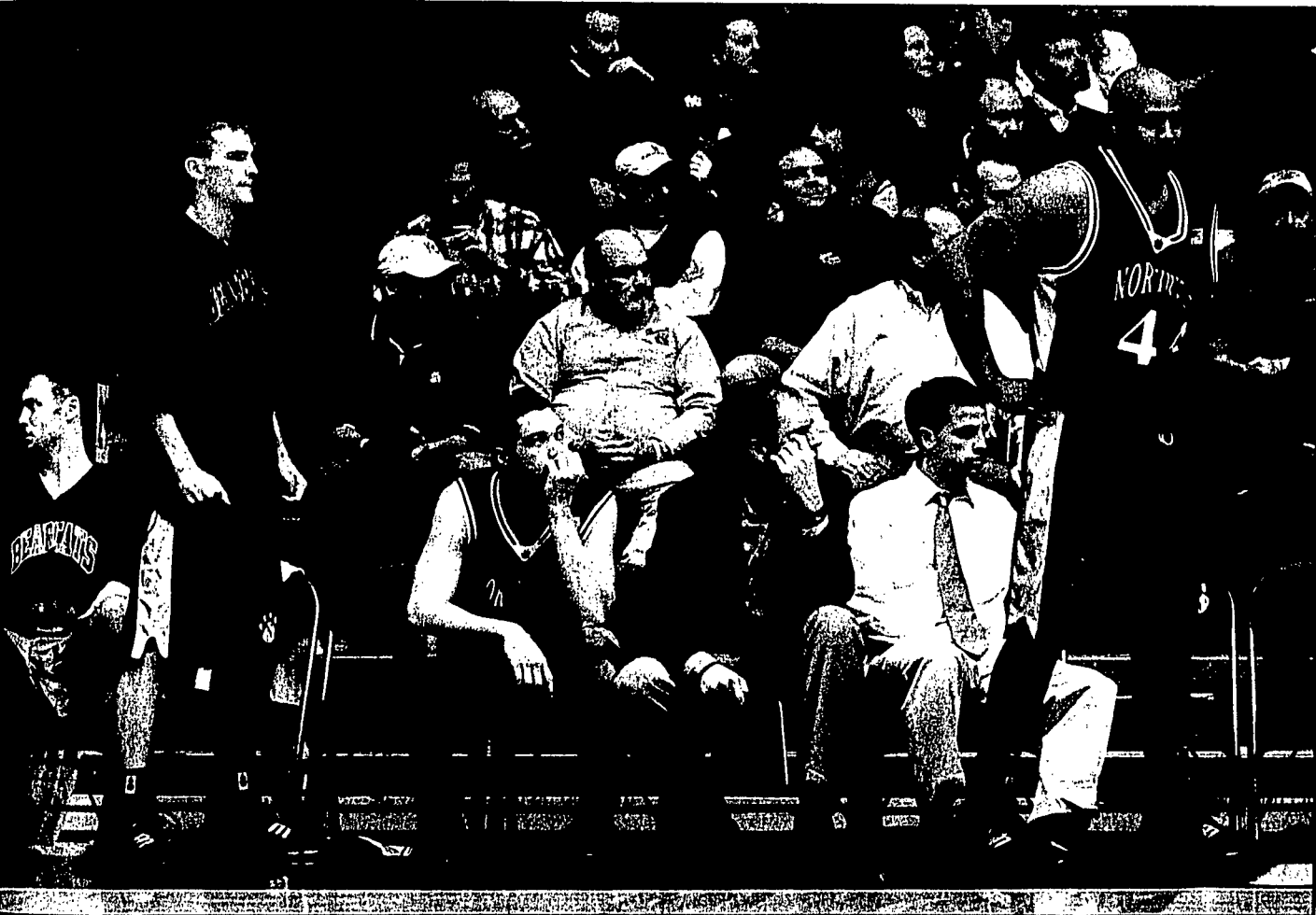


PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Northwest men's basketball team stands in disappointment after falling to Southwest Baptist in the first round of the MIAA tournament.

Bearcats season comes up short following overtime loss to Baptist

BY BRENDAN KELLEY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Northwest Bearcats saw their bid at a straight 20-win season, and a second MIAA conference championship, end at the hands of Southwest Baptist University, 71-65, in overtime on Friday in Kansas City.

The last left the 'Cats with a 19-11 record this year. The victory was SBU's first MIAA tournament win since 1993.

The two teams met three times this year. All three games required overtime for a winner to emerge.

"We were very fortunate to get the win," Northwest Baptist coach Jeff Guiot said. "Obviously our two teams are eventually scheduled."

SBU would grab the lead only one minute into the game and Northwest would not regain the lead the entire first half.

It seemed as though every time the 'Cats would attempt to make a run, they turned the ball over and the momentum would be thrown once again in SBU's direction. Northwest turned the ball over a total of 14 times in the first half, ending the game with 23 turnovers.

"All week we were saying that to win we needed to take care of the ball and keep them off the boards," coach Steve Tappmeyer said. "We played hard, but we didn't do those two things. It's hard to win when you turn the ball over more than 20 times."

It seemed as though every time a shot went up SBU was in position to grab the offensive board. SBU out-rebounded the 'Cats 16 to 7 on the offensive glass, and used that advantage to take a 31-30 lead into halftime.

The 'Cats came out of halftime and worked quickly, grabbing their first lead of the game 37-36 with 18:03 left in the game.

How does this season stack up?

2003-2004	29-5
- Elite Eight Appearance	
2002-2003	22-9
- Regional Tourney Berth	
2001-2002	29-3
- Elite Eight Appearance	
2000-2001	25-6
- Second round of the regional tourney	
1999-2000	22-8
- Regional Tourney Berth	

Northwest led 55-51 when the turnover bug bit the 'Cats again. Two straight turnovers led SBU back into the game. Northwest kept the game tied thanks to a Martez Young technical.

With 3.2 seconds left in regulation SBU had an opportunity to win the game off an

please see 'MEN' page 2B



PHOTO BY COLEYOUNG/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Reserve quarterback Jeff Netolicky (right) takes snaps from fellow backup Joel Osborn during the first day of spring practice Wednesday. The team will have 15 spring practices this season.

Football team starts spring practices; squad takes the field with healthy Lamberson

BY JEROME BOETTCHER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Northwest football team walked onto the football field Wednesday afternoon, for the first time in more than three months.

The Bearcats hit the field Wednesday for the first of what will be 15 spring practices.

For most of the team it's just a beginning to a season filled with high expectations. Northwest comes off a season in which the team finishes No. 3 in the national polls.

"Finishing No. 3 is kind of like the first loser in that national championship game a little bit," senior quarterback Josh Lamberson said. "We know we have two more spots to go. Last year we had very high expectations going into the season; we wanted to win that national championship. This year, especially the upperclassmen, are very focused coming into this spring ball and really ready to roll. Right now that is our goal—to win that national championship."

Lamberson comes off a hip surgery after his season ended due to an injury against Missouri Western.

"It's probably one of the most exciting things I have ever been through in my life, to tell you the truth," he said. "Last night I

couldn't sleep, today I was jumping around, trying to keep myself calm because I knew it was coming—the calm before the storm. It's so exciting for me to come out here and be able to participate with my teammates and just run around and play the game that I love so much again."

Though the start of the season is still a long way off, Northwest does have their 2005 schedule set. They will start off the season with two non-conference road games, traveling to Minnesota-Mankato to play the Mavericks on Aug. 25 and then visit the University of Nebraska-Omaha Sept. 3.

"(Minnesota-Mankato) is an up-and-coming team; they're a team that went 6-5 last year. At the end of the season they beat Nebraska-Omaha, keeping them from getting in the playoffs," Northwest head coach Mel Tjeerdsma said. "They want the challenge; they're going to be a dangerous team to open with but we'll be ready for them."

The schedule features a total of 10 games, one less than usual. Conference opponent Missouri-Rolla left the MIAA and the Bearcats had a hard time filling up the spots.

"The scheduling is tough because people don't want to play you," Tjeerdsma said. "You really have to struggle to find games."

Second half rally comes up short; season ends against Emporia

BY JEROME BOETTCHER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Emporia State women's basketball team ended there would be no upset this time. The Lady Hornets ended all possible hopes of a repeat of last year's MIAA Tournament title game with a statement-making

during the Bearcats' 100-75 season-ending Thursday night in the MIAA Tournament at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. Northwest was able to stay close with 13 minutes left in the game.

Trailing just 61-52, senior Ashely Poptanycz fired off a pass and threw it up to teammate Friederich.

Friederich then found Chelsea Ernzen below and it appeared she would score

on an easy lay-up.

Nor so fast.

Out of nowhere, Emporia's 6'3" Esmary Vargas-Sanchez swatted the ball into the stands. Northwest's Megan Hamilton would then travel after the inbound, and the Lady Hornets went on to a 10-0 run to end all hopes of a comeback.

"You know blocked shots can sometimes be momentum-changing plays, much like a dunk in a men's game," Emporia State head coach Brandon Schneider said. "It was (down to nine points) and they had some chances and fortunately for us we were able to kind of stay their comeback, so to speak."

Northwest trailed the whole game, but according to head coach Gene Steinmeyer they needed to stop the Lady Hornets after cutting it down to nine points.

please see 'CATS' page 2B



PHOTO BY COLEYOUNG/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN
Junior Laura Friederich tries to drive to the basket against Emporia State last Thursday in the first round of the MIAA Tournament. She led the team with 34 points.

Baseball falls to Lakers

BY SETH WOODERSON
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Northwest baseball team returned home after losing their final games in the Armstrong Atlantic Invitational in Savannah, Ga.

The Bearcats fell to Armstrong Atlantic 4-3, the same team that shut them out 7-0 the previous day.

In Northwest's final game of the tournament, they took a one-run lead

in the fifth inning, only to see No. 20 Montevallo go on a five-run rally in the sixth inning, topping the score at 6-2. Montevallo moved their winning streak to nine.

"I thought we played real well early (but) towards the end of the tournament we just stopped swinging the bats," Coach Darin Loe said.

The Bearcats traveled to Pittsburgh, Kan., for a double-header against No. 11

Grand Valley State University.

Northwest dropped two games on Wednesday night in a double-header match-up with No. 11 Grand Valley State University.

The 'Cats dropped the first game 9-4 and the evening game 7-1.

The 'Cats couldn't seem to get things to come together in the first game committing 6 errors. Their four hits in the second game were not nearly enough to over take the Lakers.

'CATS: Women fall short in MIAA tourney

CONTINUED from 1B

"We had been coming from behind all night, I believe we had been down as much as 19 before we cut it to nine," Steinmeyer said. "No one particular play deflated us. Once we got it inside nine, we really needed stops at that point."

"Vargas-Sanchez has made a career out of blocking shots so you can't be too disappointed about that. I really thought the kids did a great job to battle back tonight...Of course that last 13 minutes was a nightmare with the way (Emporia) shot the ball."

Emporia opened the game with four straight three-pointers, to take a early 12-4 lead. The 'Cats would get within five at one point later in the first half, cutting the score to 23-18, but Emporia would go on another 12-4 run to help pull away before halftime with a 47-34 lead.

"It's always tough to feel like (you're in the game) even though that one little basket doesn't take a big chunk out of the elephant," said Friederich, who had a game-high



STEINMEYER

24 points. "But at least we did try to keep going, we did try to do our own thing, keep battling back."

Northwest cut an early, 18-point second half lead to nine with a 14-7 run, but it wasn't enough as six Lady Hornets scored in double figures. Emporia's Michelle Brown scored 11 points and also recorded 11 assists and nine rebounds. She was one rebound away from becoming the first player to ever record a triple-double in the tournament.

However, the 'Cats never seemed to quit even with six minutes left and down by 25 points, Northwest's freshmen Kalena Kenney and Hamilton dove around on the ground after the ball.

"I love these kids; I have not one thing bad to say about my players. (A 13-17 record) might be a nightmare for a few coaches but it's a lot of fun for me," Steinmeyer said. "It doesn't feel like we were 13-17. I hate the final score of this game because I just don't feel like it reflects the way we competed in the MIAA overall."

It was the first time since the 2000-2001 season the 'Cats allowed 100 points in a game.

Along with Friederich's 24 points, freshman Mandi Schumacher added 10 points while Poptanycz scored nine points in her final game. Michelle Stueve led the

Lady Hornets, with 21 points off of 4-of-8 shooting from behind the arc in her first tournament game.

"Well, I think whenever you go some place new you always get a different feeling," Stueve said. "You just kind of have to relax and realize it's just a gym like any other place. That's what I tried to think about."

Thursday's victory marked the third time this season Emporia beat Northwest and revenge for last year's loss in the tournament when the Bearcats beat the Hornets to win the MIAA Tournament Championship.

Northwest only loses one senior, Poptanycz. Steinmeyer says he is glad to know he will have leaders such as juniors Friederich and Meghan Blay next year but will miss his lone senior. Poptanycz says she will also miss the closeness between the members of the team.

"Anybody would (have a hard time) to find a coach that treats his players better than Stein does. I'm going to miss all the food at film," Poptanycz said. "It's been a great experience, I'm really going to miss it. I'm going to miss the camaraderie between the teammates and everything."

The Bearcats finished the season 13-17 overall and 6-13 in conference play.

MEN: Team ends season with 19 victories

CONTINUED from 1B

inbounds play, but Danny Norman's jumper fell off the rim and sent the game into overtime tied at 63.

Northwest was unable to hit a field goal in overtime, and if not for free throws from Travis Gardner and Jesse Shaw the overtime period would have been a shutout.

SBU set a new MIAA single-game record for three point attempts with 45 attempts. SBU only converted 11 of those attempts, but it was enough.

"I'd rather have them take one or two bad shots, than pass up on an open look," Guio said.

Gardner ended his career at Northwest leading the 'Cats in scoring, with 17.

"It hasn't set in yet," Gardner said. "Your whole life you always think that you have next year, but there will be no next year for me."

The 'Cats fought an uphill battle all night, as junior and leading scorer Austin Meyer was unable to get into a groove of any kind, shooting 2-10 from the floor and 0-5 from three-point land.

"We tried to make it difficult for Austin to catch and shoot," Guio said. "He just had a bad day; if we were to play against him again tomorrow I have no doubt that he would knock those shots down."

There was a lot of pressure on this year's team to succeed and while the 'Cats didn't reach the 20-win mark or win the tournament, they accomplished more

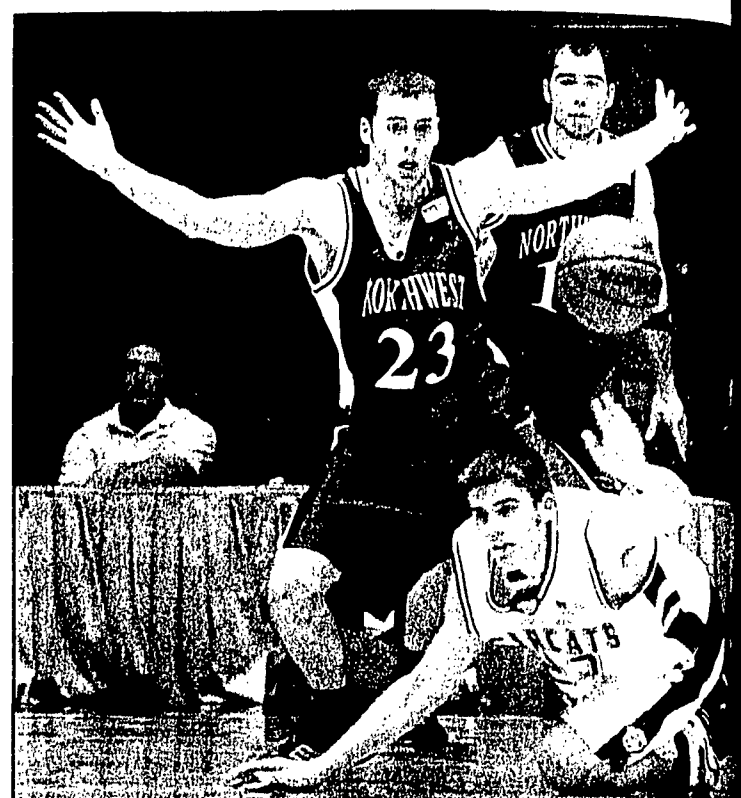


PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Northwest's Travis Gardner (23) and Jesse Shaw scramble for a loose ball during their opening round loss against Southwest Baptist in the MIAA Tournament.

than teams of the past. "With all the injuries we had on the team this year it would have been easy for the guys to just quit," Tappmeyer said. "But, they never quit, adversity did not break them."

For the six seniors on the team this

was the last day they will wear a Northwest uniform.

"This game has become a motivating factor," freshman Joel Osborn said. "Everyone saw what happened. The seniors didn't go out the way they wanted to, we don't want this feeling ever again."

SOFTBALL: Team hosts non-conference foes this week

CONTINUED from 1B

Southern at 1 p.m. Northwest will face Missouri-Rolla at 11 a.m. Saturday and finish off the tournament against Northern (S.D.) State at 3 p.m.

"This is a good opportunity to see and play some good competition we don't normally face,"

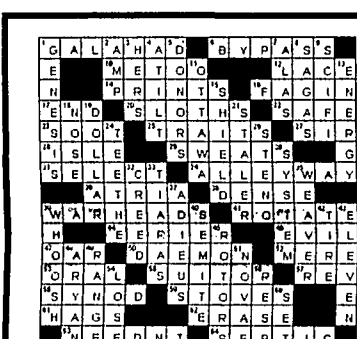
Anderson said. "I feel like our confidence should be really strong. I'd like to see our offensive numbers go up. We've got a good start, we just need to keep getting better and better."

Anderson stresses that the key to success is to avoid injuries and to keep everyone healthy.

"If we just keep our focus and

keep doing what we've been doing we should be fine," Lake said.

Northwest now stands at 19-11 and after the Teri Zenner Memorial Classic this weekend host Minnesota State-Moorhead at 2 p.m. on Monday at Bearcat Field. Tuesday, the 'Cats host Park University at 2:30 p.m. also.



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Area teams fizzle out early in March

It's the most wonderful time of the year. It's that time of the year again when the season ends, upsets are born and everyone knows how to pronounce "March Madness." Ahh, March Madness! A sports fan's dream.

But this year the Madness might not have some of its meaning to area fans. At this point last year, Nodaway County was faced a tough decision. Do I head to Texas and watch the Northwest boys' basketball team? Or do I head to the shorter trip down to Springfield and support the women? Or would I make the shorter trip and stick with the Spoofies and cheer on the Maryville boys' basketball team in Warrensburg?

This year, fans must make the quick shift to baseball and softball. The Hounds once again continue their quest for state, as they could compete in the Class 3 quarterfinals this weekend in CMSU.

But there is no joy for Bearcat basketball fans, as just five days into March the teams' seasons are over. Area fans could call this season a disappointment and if you really look at the season, you'll see both teams overcame their share of adversity.

After losing eight seniors, it looked like this season would be a rebuilding year for the women's team. But although their record doesn't show it, the team competed in every game. They only lost five of their regular season conference games by more than 10 points--

not bad for a team full of freshmen and only one senior. Next year things should only get better; thanks to the way Coach Gene Steinmeyer uses his bench his freshman saw plenty of playing time this season and he should have no problem finding senior leadership in Meghan Blay and Laura Friederich.

And for the men's team? Yeah it was a disappointment if you compare it to last year's team, but any time you win 19 games in a season, it should be considered successful. If the team doesn't make it to regionals the Northwest community considers it a failure. But to see what the men endured and still come one win short of their sixth consecutive 20-win season, it's no disappointment.

From the very start of the season, the team battled injuries. Sky Wilson had a nightmare of a senior year as a concussion kept him off the floor to start the season and reoccurring knee injuries cut his season short. Promising redshirt-freshman Andy Peterson tore his ACL midway through the season, and numerous other bangs and bruises tainted the squad.

But despite losing six seniors to graduation, the men's team sees leaders like Addae Houston and Austin Meyer coming back. Red-shirt freshmen Kyle Garner and Peterson showed just a taste of what is still to come.

So although March Madness has somewhat come to a halt for area fans there is always next year, and don't be surprised if the 'Hounds go all the way and win state.

With six of the top 10 teams eliminated, it's anyone's game for the state basketball championship.

If you still miss college basketball, don't forget about Division I basketball. If Sunday's games were a sign of things to come then fans should be in for a treat.

Besides, baseball is just around the corner and although the Royals once again look weak, it's never too late to root for the better baseball team in Missouri.



Jerome Boettcher
Sports Editor

The Floater

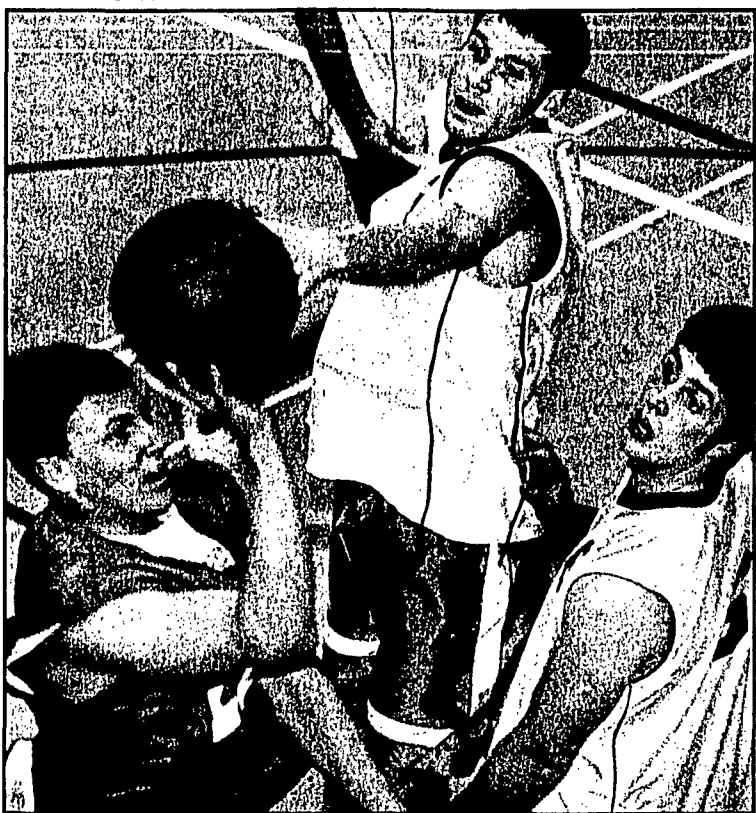


PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN
Jace Champlin of the Shooters tries to guide his shot in over the Flying Dutchmen's David Akins, left, and Eric Goudge during Tuesday night's basketball games. The intramural basketball championships end tonight.

Boys Basketball

It's WIDE OPEN

Six of the top 10 teams in the state made an early exit last week. Leaving the door wide open for Maryville and others to win the state basketball championship. As of Wednesday night, three of last year's final four teams were still in the playoffs.

CLASS 3 Rankings

1. Kaiser 25-0	7. Portageville 22-5
2. ST. Cardinal Ritter 18-5	8. Caruthersville 19-6
3. Maryville 22-5	9. Steelville 24-3
4. Cameron 22-7	10. Park Hill
5. Macon 22-3	West County 22-3
6. Career Academy 22-6	

Records as of last week

Young team finds success

Northwest tennis teams off to a good start

BY AARON NELSON
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Northwest tennis teams showed that youth was not a factor this past weekend as they swept their season-opening match-ups in Topeka, Kan.

They traveled to Topeka, Kan. on March 4-5. Topeka was selected as the half-way point for teams coming from Colorado and Minnesota, which Northwest faced.

It was a long trip home for Northwest's opponents as both the women's and men's teams finished with combined perfect 6-0 against regional opponents Colorado State-Pueblo, Metro State and Winona State while in Topeka.

"I thought everyone played well and we came out with a lot of big wins," freshman Jake Saulsbury said.

Head coach Mark Rosewell is in his 21st year of coaching, and he has been at Northwest longer than most of his players have been alive.

The youthfulness is evident when he looks at his team's roster, and sees that on the men's team upperclassmen don't exist, as this year's squad is made up of three sophomores and four freshmen.

On the women's side the youth movement is not as apparent. That team consists of three freshmen, one sophomore, four juniors and a senior. Despite a slight edge in experience for the women's squad, both squads will undoubtedly test the veteran experience of Rosewell.

"They're (the men's team) going to make mistakes," Rosewell said. "They don't have the experience, but I think they're going to get better and they can be a good team."

Rosewell chalks up victories like these to quality coaching and the "right kind" of players; he believes in order to succeed on the tennis court, his players must be gifted in the classroom as well as with a racquet.

The teams may benefit from the experience possessed by the coaching staff, but it has benefited the presence of international students on their rosters as it is almost a necessity to succeed in NCAA Division II tennis.

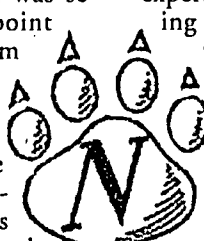
"If you look at the top 20 Division II players, what you're going to find is that probably 15 or 16 of them are international," Rosewell said. "That's not to say there are not good Americans, but most of your good Americans will go to Division I schools."

If success is measured in cultural diversity the Bearcats should be well on their way to a championship, as five different countries and four different states are represented between the men's and women's teams.

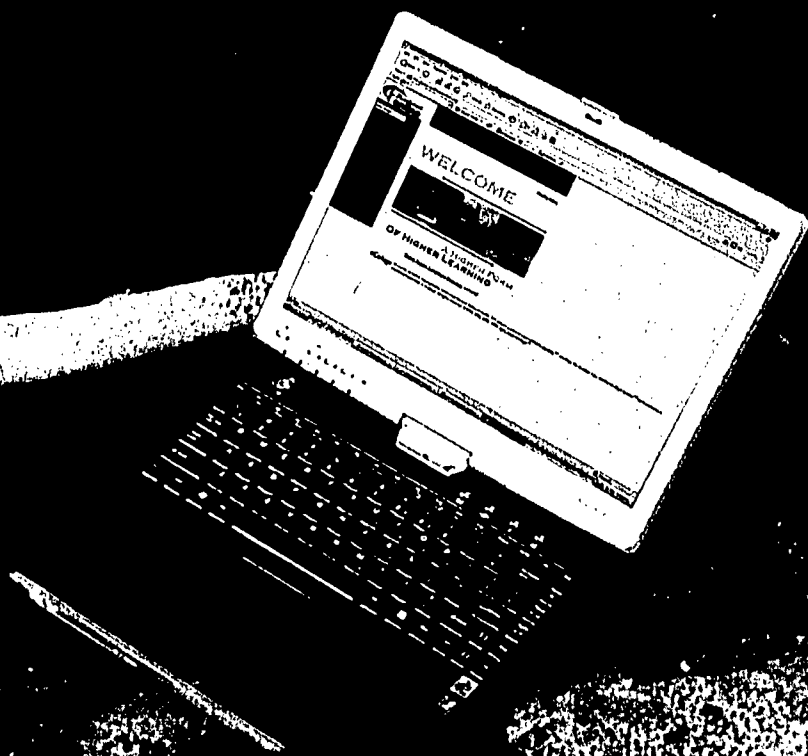
However, both teams do not even think about championships yet, as the men traveled to St. Joseph, Mo. to face an upstart Missouri Valley Tuesday. Northwest never faced Missouri Valley in a tennis match before because of the newness of Missouri Valley's program.

The team blew away Missouri Valley 7-1 as the No. 2 man; Pablo Acebedo, led the way for the team with a 6-2, 6-4 victory. The team now sits at 4-0 on the season.

Both teams play host to the University of Nebraska-Kearney on Friday. They will be playing at the Grube Courts at 3 p.m.



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- Session 2, June 6 - July 1
- Session 3, July 5 - July 29
- Session 4, Aug. 1 - Aug. 15

Stroller ponders coffee, Java City

I think Juan Valdez hit the nail on the head when he said, "Hey, at least my coffee tastes better than donkey urine."

And that's right. That's why Juan Valdez had that same donkey in every one of his ads, to let Americans know without him we'd be waking to a nice pot of French-roasted donkey piss. It was his way of saying, "I own you."

I, myself, never got into the whole coffee thing because well, I'd rather chew my way through a crusty, old gym sock worn by an Olympic sprinter with athlete's foot than drink a nice, warm mug of something that tastes like what I always thought pond scum looked like it should taste.

I don't drink coffee, but I love Java City. It's like the ultimate summation of what college is. It's warm and inviting, yet restricted and seedy all at the same time. At the entrance everybody's like, "Hi friend! Come on in and join the party!"

And then you get inside, and it turns into "Get the \$@#\$ away from my scone! I will cut you!"

Java City is like the Gaza Strip. Everybody fights for control of it. The College Republicans, College Democrats and people who actually have their heads screwed on straight all compete for territorial rights to Java City. It's like an inner-city gang war, only not as interesting.



THE STROLLER

And the poor Java City employees try to keep the peace: "There will be no fighting here! I declare this coffee shop holy! This is base! All shall cease fire once you enter the oh-so-sacred Java City!"

And then you've got the Amnesty International kids running around screaming, "For every bean that you grind, a poor Colombian boy will die."

Is that what that delectable taste is? And all this time I thought it was hazelnut. Question: Can you buy a dead Colombian boy in a bottle, because I've been trying to make this stuff at home for three weeks and I just can't seem to get it right. Amnesty International—taking the fun out of fundamentalism since 1961.

I love the fashion of the people in Java City. They all wear at least one of the following: a shirt of a band that is either no more or that nobody has ever heard of, a sweatband serving no real purpose, a jacket that looks like it came from the 1980's (rule of thumb on retro

clothes: if you bought it from a thrift store because you're punk, it's cool; if you bought it from a thrift store because you're poor, that's not cool) or any article of clothing that looks like it came from Ellen Degeneres' wardrobe, regardless of your gender.

And coffee houses are strictly aimed at college kids and ex-hippies teaching liberal arts. You will never find a regular Joe Midwestern walking into a coffee house and ordering a soy chai tea latte with a shot of chocolate milano.

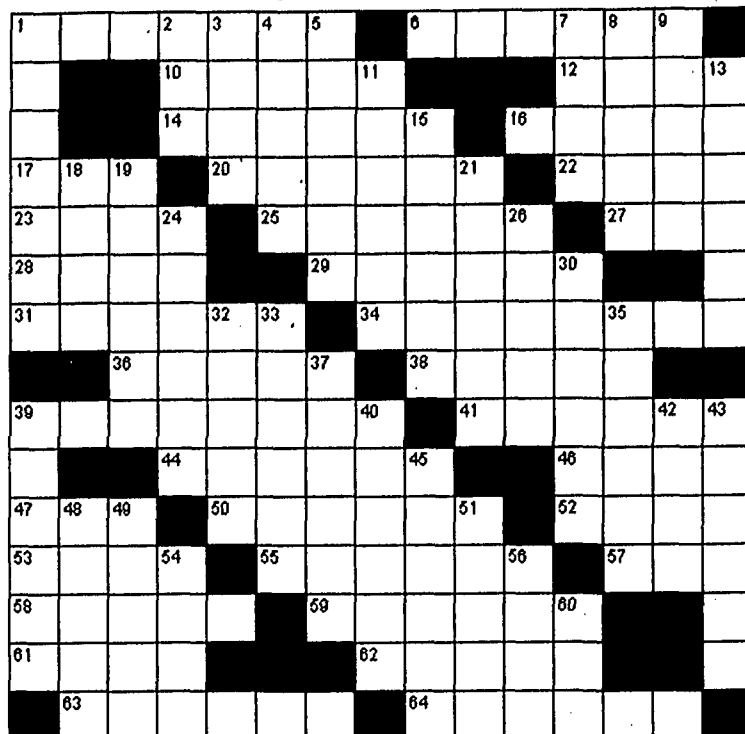
In fact, the code of men specifically states the only words you are allowed to say while ordering coffee from a coffee house are 'coffee,' 'decaf,' 'oops spilled some on my shoe' and 'cruller'. And you should also know when I say "coffee house," I mean "gas station."

My favorite thing to do at Java City is walk in, order a cup of coffee, sit down at the table in the middle of the shop, open up a newspaper or a book about grabbing hold of my life, take a sip of my coffee and start gagging violently.

"Eeeeiichhh! Hack! HACK! BLEEEEECHHH! Scoff! Scoff! Gulk! Kaff! Eeeeiichhh! Hey! Hey, which one of you guys put ipecac in my moccachino? What'd you guys run out of coffee filters and start using underwear?"

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



Across

1. Noblest knight of the Round Table
6. Road around an obstruction
10. I'm doing the same
12. Ornamental fabric
14. Publishes
16. Controller of child thieves
17. Conclusion
20. Inactive mammals
22. Securely

confined

23. Smoke deposit
25. Characteristics
27. Title of a knight
28. Small island
29. Heats to melting point
31. Choose
34. Passageway
36. Connecting chambers
38. Compact
39. Missile

payloads

41. Revolve
44. Weirder
46. Wicked
47. Lever for rowing
50. Fiend
52. Lake or pond
53. Spoken
55. Plaintiff
57. Revolution
58. Church council
59. Cooking devices
61. Witches
62. Efface
63. Contraction of need not
64. Infected

Down

1. First book of the

Bible

2. Current unit
3. Possessive pronoun
4. Tilted
5. Givers
7. Exclamation to express sorrow
8. Long stories
9. Science fiction
11. Capital of Canada
13. Vigor
15. Protect
18. Facial feature
19. Basic monetary unit
21. Less fresh
24. Grow teeth
26. Stenographer
30. Method
32. Set of beliefs
33. Head ornaments
35. Person who weaves
37. Farewells
39. Loud, rushing noise
40. Southwestern Asian
42. Make weary
43. Cricket team
45. Revolving airfoils
48. Of Nordic stock
49. Extent
51. Suddenly brightening stars
54. Mislay
56. Short respondent
60. Become firm

On the edge

Spontaneous combustion:

■ Spontaneous combustion occurs when an object—be it the case of spontaneous human combustion, a person—bursts into flame from a chemical reaction within, apparently without being ignited by an external heat source.

■ The first known account of spontaneous human combustion came from the Danish anatomist Thomas Bartholin in 1663, who described how a woman in Paris "was up in ashes and smoke" while she was sleeping.

■ What makes the charred bodies in the photos of spontaneous human combustion so peculiar is that the extremities often remain intact. Although the torso and head are charred beyond recognition, the hands, feet and part of the legs may be unburned.

■ Not all spontaneous human combustion victims simply burst into flames. Some describe strange burns on the body which have no obvious source, or emanate smoke from their body when no fire is present. Not every person who has caught fire has died; a small percentage of people have actually survived what has been called their spontaneous combustion.

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